

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election of a single species under 35 U.S.C. § 121, to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally to be allowable. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, but elect a species with traverse in order to comply with 37 CFR § 1.143.

It is Applicants' understanding that this election is being made to aid the Examiner in conducting a search and examination of the claimed subject matter, and is not to be construed as limiting the scope of Applicants' claims. It is also Applicants' understanding that if the elected subject matter is found to be allowable over the prior art, the search and examination will be expanded to cover other species, until it includes the full scope of the generic claims included in the elected group.

The restriction requirement suggested a division of species based on example embodiments listed in paragraph [0008] to paragraph [0017] of the present specification. With all due respect to the suggestion in the restriction requirement, applicants respectfully assert that these cited paragraphs of the specification do not define various distinct species. Instead, the cited paragraphs simply provide various example embodiments that support the entire description, as well as the pending claims.

Nevertheless, in an effort to move prosecution forward, applicants hereby elect claims 1-34 for prosecution on the merits.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned with any further questions.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

The present application is now believed to be in condition for examination on the merits. Favorable examination leading to early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

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